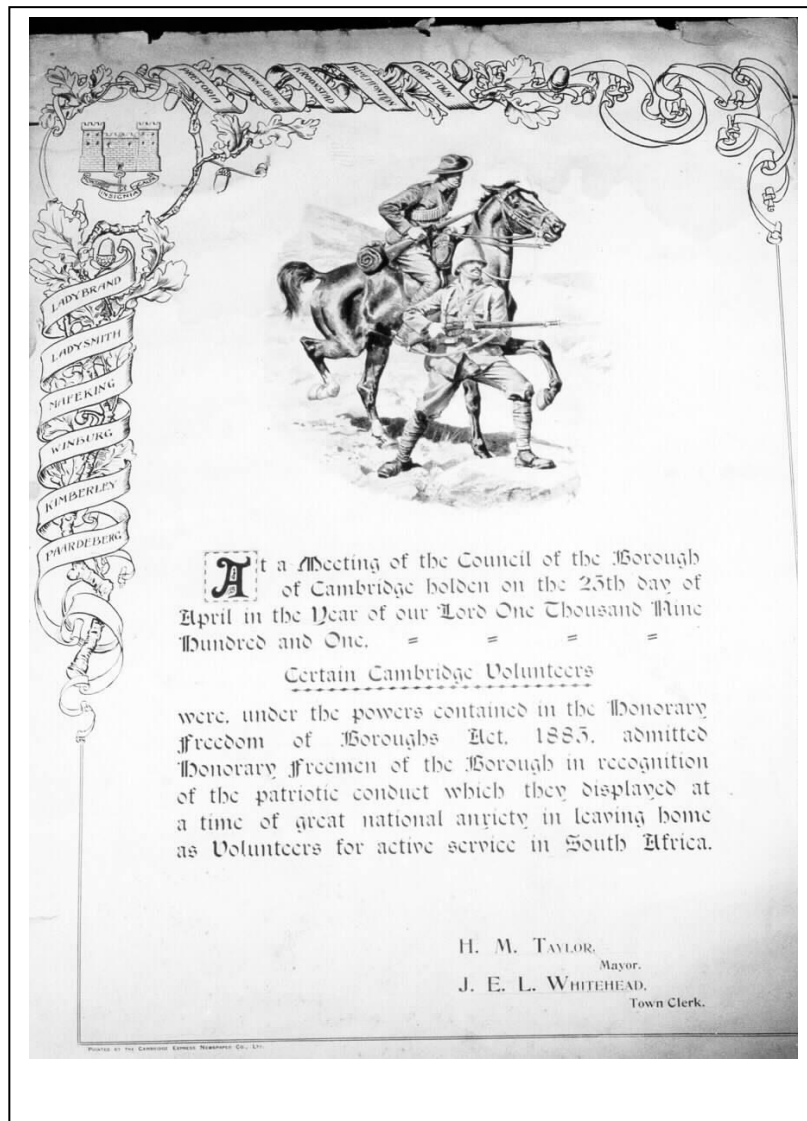


Cambridge Military Scrapbook 1897 to 1913

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 04 26

The officers of the 3rd (Cambs) Volunteer Battalion Suffolk Regiment has issued an appeal for subscriptions to enable them to build a new armoury. The present headquarters in Corn Exchange street are totally inadequate for the requirements of the corps. The present is a good year for patriotic effort. The Volunteer Force is no longer on its trial; it occupies an important place in the scheme of military defences; and we have much pleasure in commending the movement just initiated to the general consideration of the public - Editorial - 1897 04 26

1897 07 09

The annual inspection of the Third (Cambs) Volunteer Battalion, Suffolk Regiment took place at the University Rifle Range. Various battalion movements were executed and the inspection concluded with a sham fight in which the cycling section and the machine gun were opposed to the main body of the troops. The sham fight would have been done better if the non-commissioned officers in charge of the sections had not repeated the words too quickly - 1897 07 09

1897 11 13

On Saturday night a Western force was advancing on Cambridge from the direction of St Neots and an Eastern force had been assembled to protect the town. They established a line of outposts from Coton to Barton church. At about three o'clock the opposing forces came into collision. The first firing took place in Barton village. Barton hill formed a strong point in the defence and here Colonel Cronin, much assisted by the Maxim-guns made a prolonged stand, but the numerical superiority of the attacking force compelled him at length to retire, fighting hard - 1897 11 13

1898 04 25

The third meeting of the Eastern District Tactical Society was held at Newmarket and orders issued for an exercise in the open country. The general idea was that a Western army was advancing from Cambridge with the object of driving an Eastern army out of Bury St Edmunds. This gave commanders of regiments some useful experience in the organisation of columns of march, some of the troops being supposed to be located at Cambridge, and others around Newmarket. On Thursday the central position was Cheveley, and the outposts were formed along the line, Limekilns, Cheveley, Kirtling. The members of the Society were engaged in working out the dispositions, and the exercises concluded with some general remarks on the action supposed to follow CDN 1898 04 25

1899 05 08

Coldham's Common, Cambridge where the Suffolk Regiment is to undergo its annual training is a scene of bustle and animation, the recruits of the regiment having arrived to go through their musketry course before the whole regiment assembles. The camp occupies the whole of the town side of the common. The officers quarters are situated at the bridge end and extend in three rows to the railway. There are the usual latrines and cooking paraphernalia. In this regiment the old earthen ovens are to be abolished, and army cooking ranges, and an ingenious device known as the Aldershot oven substituted. A hospital tent is, of course, an item

1899 10 16

Home there are today in the town and county of Cambridge which are without a head because husbands and fathers have responded to the call upon Reserves to join their regiments. Cambridgeshire has already made a significant contribution to the British strength in South Africa, while those left behind are in deepest anxiety as to the safety of their absent ones. We owe it to ourselves as Englishmen to see that the wives and children do not suffer in material comfort because the breadwinners have gone forth to fight. Many are reduced to living upon the Government allowance of a few shilling in the week. We would take the liberty of suggesting that the Mayor Of Cambridge should open a fund for the families of Reserve men and the active interest of Alderman Kett makes it appropriate that he should put himself at the head of the movement. – Editorial 1899 10 16

1899 10 22

From a Cambridge man at the front, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. "I am out here now and we have to go up to the Transval and pump some lead for Kruger, and I hope to present a lock of his whiskers to our Fitzwilliam Museum. There are plenty of Cambridge lads out here in the Fifth Lancers who have just gone up to Ladysmith. Every man has 109 round of lead & I have been selected to fill the post of stretcher bearer to pick up dead or wounded comrades; but perhaps I might be picked up myself. I hope to come out safe and I won't forget Kruger's whiskers" - Paddy Hopkins c1899 10 22

1899 10 23

The war in South Africa has already levied toll upon Cambridge. Among those who were killed at Glencoe was Private J. Best, whose parents reside here, and on the list of the wounded at Elands Laagte is Lance Corporal Henry Turner, a Cambridge man. Their relatives have the very sincere sympathy of the people of Cambridge. Whether the end of this war come soon or comes late, it will have cost the British Army dear. Already hundreds of brave fellows have found their graves among the hills of Natal 1899 10 23

1899 11 04

Two more constables of the Cambridge police force have received notice to join their regiments preparatory to leaving for South Africa. These are P.C.s John Waylett and Goodchild. The former left Cambridge by train, being accompanied to the station by Sergt Baker and eight of his comrades in the police force. As the train steamed out of the station three cheers for the gallant 44th were lustily given by the policemen 1899 11 04

1899 11 06

The announcement that a number of Reserve men belonging to the Suffolk Regiment would leave Cambridge to join the regiment sufficed to bring thousands of people together in the Market Hill to give them a hearty send off. . It detracted somewhat from the picturesqueness of the effect that the Reserve men were not in uniform but in their ordinary clothes but they could not have evoked greater enthusiasm on the part of the public. Heads of colleges were there, undergraduates in caps and gowns rubbed shoulders with farm workers from the country. Old soldiers wearing their medals had come to live over again stirring scenes from their youth. Women were there and children also. It was a crowd thoroughly resolved upon manifesting its goodwill to the men who were going away 1899 11 06

1899 11 13

Cambridge has got a long railway station, but there would not have been an inch of standing room to spare on the platform if all the people who desired to get in had been permitted to do so. Shortly before noon the procession of Reservists arrived and from that time till the train left all was wild excitement. The difficulty was to get the men who were leaving away from their friends, and in the long run there was nothing for it but to effect something like a forcible separation. Eventually, amid vociferous cheering the train got away and the defenders of the country were fairly on their way to do the country's bidding 1899 11 13

1899 11 25

The London Scottish Rifle Volunteers arrived in Cambridge for the purpose of engaging with the University Volunteer Corps in certain field operations. The idea was for the Scots to gain an entrance to Cambridge. The University Volunteers marched in the direction of Shelford, where they expected to meet the attacking force. The opposing forces formed up at Caius College Farm and then proceeded via Hills Road to Cambridge - 1899 11 25

1899 11 27

Following their manoeuvres at Shelford the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers had a further engagement with the University corps in the vicinity of Caius Farm, near the Gog Magogs. The Scots marched out to occupy the farm and were reinforced at Fulbourn by a company of the Newmarket Suffolk Volunteers. The actual firing operations began at 2.45. The farm having been taken the

defending and attacking forces were formed up in line and the march home was begun, the Scottish pipers leading the way 1899 11 27

1900 01 20

For the second time since the Boer ultimatum the consequences of war have been brought very close to Cambridge. This morning there was a second demonstration in which Town and Gown joined hands in a common feeling of respect for those who, though not compelled by laws to leave the old country, were nevertheless anxious to lend a hand in the war. Shortly after ten o'clock the special train steamed out of the siding, kisses were blown and the Volunteers who will represent Cambridge at the front were out of sight, but not out of mind CDN 1900 01 20

1900 01 22

Mr G.W. Rawlinson of Mill Road, Cambridge has received a letter from Private Caswell, who is well known in the town. He writes: "at daybreak we attacked the Boers who were holding a low-lying hill from which they poured a very severe fire. We kept steadily on till we were within 100 yards of them, when we fixed bayonets and charged them. In retiring they had to cross a valley. We poured volley after volley into them with deadly effect. Later I was struck on the ankle by a shell which did not burst and which has made me an invalid for a fortnight" - 00 01 21

1900 01 31

Graces are to be submitted to the Senate of Cambridge University to authorise the Vice Chancellor to grant the use of the Senate House for a meeting to consider an increased establishment of the University Rifle Volunteers, and to allow the use of the Senate House as a drill room for recruits at times when it is not required for University purposes - 00 01 31

1900 03 01

The greatest possible excitement followed the receipt of the news of the relief of Ladysmith. The telegrams conveying the announcement was received at the chief Post office shortly after 10 o'clock and the intelligence spread with marvellous rapidity to all parts of the town. When a private wire was posted in the Market Place the excitement was intense. From all approaches people could be seen rushing to get a view of the telegram and the wildest enthusiasm prevailed. The crowd raised hearty cheers and there was much waving of hats and handkerchiefs - 00 03 01

1900 03 03

There was great rejoicings in Cambridge on the relief of Ladysmith and despite the edict sent forth by the University authorities the conduct of the undergraduate element was again such as to necessitate the intervention of the police. The Varsitymen managed to draw police attention off the market place to scenes elsewhere and, during their temporary absence, succeeded in lighting a bonfire. There was great excitement as one by one the wooden frameworks of the stalls was committed to the flames. The band-stand on Christ's Pieces was attacked and the seats removed to the Market and quickly consumed. Similar damage was occasioned in all parts of the town - 00 03 03

1900 03 08

The first khaki wedding in Cambridge was held at St Botolph's church. The bride was attired in regulation khaki tight-fitting bodice, braided Hussar, with braid to match, khaki straw hat, trimmed with white chiffon and silk. She wore a spray of orange blossom and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley and snowdrops, covered with maidenhair fern. The bridesmaids wore khaki shirts with silk tunics to match. They also wore scarlet shoes and hats - 00 03 08

1900 04 04

Private Percy Darby, one of the Cambridge men serving in South Africa, describes the rations of an ordinary fighting man. They got two biscuits for a day's rations, and as for bread he had not seen any for a month. The number of prisoners coming into the English camp made matters worse for our troops had to give half their rations to the captured enemy. He saw two wagon loads of dead Highlanders brought into the camp. "They looked horrible; their heads and legs hanging over the sides

of the wagon as blue and black as anything. They buried 59 of them in one long grave and it made me feel quite bad” - 00 04 04

1900 05 19

Cambridge has suffered intense anxiety regarding the welfare of Baden-Powell and his gallant men who for the past seven months have been locked up in Mafeking. It was about ten when the glad news was first made known regarding the relief and people began to assemble in crowds to await with baited breath the confirmation. The some half-doze individuals emerged from Sidney Street and their lusty cheers led many to the conclusion that the garrison had really been relieved. As the little crowd moved along the streets the cheering increased, and people seemed intoxicated with excitement - 00 05 19

1900 05 21

In Cambridge every precaution had been taken to keep the great bonfire on Midsummer Common intact until the news of the relief of Mafeking had been confirmed, and special constables barricaded the enclosure within which the wood and other material had been stacked. Subsequently another posse of police constables arrived and the pile was made practically secure. There were attempts to fire it, however. Matches, vestas in particular, were in great demand and there seemed a determination on the part of many to have a blaze. One young man procured a box of matches, lighted them and then threw the burning mass on the brushwood. The police promptly scaled the fence and extinguished the flames. Tomorrow night we will light the biggest bonfire that has ever been seen in Cambridge - 00 05 21

1900 05 21

Cambridge has celebrated the relief of Mafeking and it has done it right nobly. There was no recurrence of the riotous scene witnessed on the occasion of the relief of Ladysmith, no destruction of property. This was due to one thing, the discretion shown by the powers that be in organising a bonfire on Midsummer Common. People poured in in thousands from the country in anticipation of the festivities and so great was the influx that some streets were rendered well night impassable. Still, the crowds were orderly and the police had no difficulty regulating the traffic - 00 05 21

1900 10 31

Mrs Doggett, of Gt Eastern Street, Cambridge, has received a letter from her son in South Africa, who has been a prisoner. He sent his mother a South African caterpillar with a rose. On arrival the rose had disappeared, and the letter was partially eaten. The caterpillar was very thin, but alive - 00 10 31

1900 11 26

On Saturday the Inns of Court Mounted Infantry joined the Cambridge University Rifles in a field day on the Newmarket Road. The tactical scheme presumed that a convoy from Newmarket was desirous of entering Cambridge along the main road through Quy and south of Fen Ditton. The CURV were told to attack, capture, hamper or destroy this convoy. Most interesting operations followed with cyclists, horsemen and infantry all fully employed. As dusk set in the convoy seized its opportunity and slipped past. The public schools and town and local corps were unable to attend at the last moment as their rifles had been called in for Government inspection - 00 11 26

1901 04 06

The special manoeuvres for cycling troops began on Good Friday. Frequent bright sunshine made the day a pleasant one for the riders traversing the Essex roads and it is to be regretted that the numbers participating have not proved so large as anticipated. The Home District Force's expected thousand cyclists have diminished by quite three hundred. The great purposes is to learn whether it is possible to employ with advantage cyclist troops in large bodies for the defence of the country, using them against the flanks and rear of an advancing enemy. The general idea is that an enemy landed at Aldeburgh has send forth a cycling forced reconnoitring towards London; while the Home Army has sent out a similar force towards the invaders to keep them in check whilst the ordinary troops are taking up their positions as a defending line - 01 04 06

1901 05 03

A large gathering of Post Office employees bade farewell to three of their number who have recently received appointments as telegraphists in South Africa. They might be sent to any part of an unsettled country and it was thought an appropriate token of goodwill would be a weapon of self-defence.

Accordingly three revolvers were purchased and presented to H. Emmerson, H. Winny and E.W. Gee. They hoped the only use they would have of them would be to hang them over the mantelpiece and look at them while they smoked - 01 05 03

1901 05 06

Today Cambridge formally recognises and honours the loyalty of her sons who have been at the war in South Africa. The arrival of the Volunteers at Cambridge Station was very quiet and orderly. There were no decorations but a barrier had been drawn across the platform & as time wore on the railway officials became more stringent as to whom they allowed within. There was excitement as a train was seen slowing steaming in with khaki-coloured arms and bronzed faces thrust out of the windows and in another minute the men were standing on the platform, after fifteen months' experience of war and travelling - 01 05 06

1901 05 07

Sanguine people imagined that the rejoicing for the return of the South African Volunteers would pass off quietly. A parental Corporation had taken the wise precaution to secure materials for a fine bonfire on Midsummer Common to prevent the destruction of property. This time it was a plan doomed to partial failure. The fire was comparatively short-lived and undergraduates found a wealth of additional fuel in King Street where a wooden hoarding was dragged off to the Common and triumphantly flung upon the bonfire. Policemen stood guard over the bandstand on Christ's Pieces - 01 05 07

1901 05 21

Sir – I learn with surprise that the starting of the proposed Cyclist Volunteer Company at Cambridge is “hung up” and may be abandoned owing to an insufficient number of names having been sent in. I hope we shall be able to prevent such a conspicuous admission of the want of patriotism on the part of Cambridge cyclists. We ought not to lag behind Bury St Edmunds where they are organising a company. Ten more names are wanted to make up the 75 required. – A Would-Be Cyclist Volunteer - 01 05 21

1902 10 25

Not long ago the remotest of all probabilities seemed to be that a time would come when, at Cambridge, Briton and Boer would grasp hands in perfect concord. Yet that strange event has come to pass. Boers visited and received a cordial welcome from a large number of people. But unfortunately their reception by a certain section of the inhabitants had neither the element of cordiality nor of welcome. The appearance of our former foes was the signal for a hostile demonstration. A huge crowd gathered in front of the Auckland Road Circus to witness the arrival of the Generals, whose visit was to raise money to restock Boer farms. Bricks and stones were hurled upon the zinc roof and hooting and shouting mingled with the other noises. - 02 10 25

1903 01 20

The visit of General Sir John French will remain memorable for his reception by all sections of the inhabitants. The famous cavalry leader was sought after, first at the railway station when he arrived and later when he proceeded to the Guildhall where he received the freedom of the Borough. Lord Kitchener's is the first name on the roll of Cambridge Freemen and it's fitting that the name of General French should follow his illustrious Commander in the South African war. Many who have already been presented with the freedom have served under him and learned to admire him as an ideal commander who never asked them to do what he was not prepared to do himself. - 03 01 20

1904 01 22

Discussion about site for War Memorial, one suggestion is at junction of Hills Road & Station Road, finally decide to erect it at East end exterior of Gt St Mary's church – 04 01 22 [1.10]

1904 09 06

Three Cambridge lads were charged with committing damage to the Cambridge Volunteer Corps rifle butts. Quartermaster-Sergt Rumbolt said that no sooner had shooting concluded than these boys invaded the butts and pulled the earthwork about in their search for bullets. This is a great nuisance and a great deal of expense has been incurred in restoring them. The Corps could obtain £20 per ton for the bullets - 04 09 06

1904 09 09

Our Special Correspondent gives a graphic account of the days fighting at the Essex manoeuvres which resulted in the defeat of the defenders and the fall of Colchester. The Bedfordshires had just entrenched themselves when suddenly the sentries gave the alarm that the enemy was upon them in the darkness. They endeavoured to make a stand and began firing vigorously but General French attacked with nearly a whole division and in the end they had to clear out of their camp or be captured. – 04 09 09 et seq

1905 02 11

Mock battle between CURV & HAC – 05 02 11[1.11]

1905 05 23

The memorial to the men of Cambridge who fell in the South African War has been completed. It takes the form of a brass tablet designed by Mr W.W. Fawcett affixed to the wall of Great St Mary's church. It is surrounded by stone moulding surmounted by the badge of the Suffolk Regiment but commemorates all local men who died in the war. 05 05 23 [NI.3.22]

1905 06 09

Some 500 working men have been spending a very pleasant month under canvas just outside Colchester. They have been comfortably housed in spacious bell tents, fed on the best of food and entertained between meals by military exercises, shooting competitions and the like. Nor has the holiday been an expensive one. On the contrary each man has received a shilling a day pocket money. In other words the 4th Battalion (Cambs) Suffolk Regiment have been enjoying their annual training. 05 06 09

1905 06 13

The memorial to the Cambridge men who died during the South African War was unveiled at Great St Mary's Church. It is not inside the church but looks out upon the Market Place, seeming to say that in the midst of life we were in death. A guard of honour consisting of a hundred men of the Cambridge Town Volunteers together with a detachment of the Suffolk Militia, a dismounted body of Hussars, Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers and the band of the Scots Grays joined old soldiers who had seen service in South Africa to witness the proceedings 05 06 13c

1905 06 17

The unveiling of the South African war memorial was marred by two small incidents. The Mayor of Cambridge was without his trusty mace-bearers - apparently the maces were securely locked up and the individual who holds the keys was not to be found. Then police failed to recognise the military veterans and refused them admittance to the ceremony to which they had been invited. There was a considerable amount of confusion until the constables were enlightened as to the nature of the guests and allowed them to pass. 05 06 17

1906 03 08

A miniature rifle range for Morris tube practice opened on the premises of Mr W.H. Rickwood. It is central, comfortable and contains all the essential points of a good range, making it a valuable

addition to the equipment of the Ely Volunteers. To make the Empire safe it was important that every man could shoot and shoot straight. Capt Stuart, the new Militia adjutant formally opened it by firing down the range and Lieut Bullock also shot. 06 03 08e

1906 03 08

The Battle of Haggis and Dumpling Farms took place on Wednesday. They stand on either side of the road from Coton to Grantchester and here the Cambridge and Oxford University Rifle Volunteer Corps engaged in an interesting encounter. About 1,800 combatants included cadets from the Leys and County Boys Schools, with mounted infantry and cycle contingents on both sides. The rifle fire was continuous and maxim guns added their sinister bark to the noise. Fortunately the weather was fine. 06 03 08a & b

1906 03 15

The militia assembled at Ely barracks for training. Recruit numbers are a record: it provides men with a healthy enjoyable holiday and brings them in winter, when wages are low and work scarce, a bounty which must prove acceptable. They are paid a shilling a day, a sum that scores of farm labourers would regard as munificent. They also receive certain articles of clothing and boots which they are allowed to retain and last till the next training. The barracks have a pleasant recreation room and good food, regular hours, drill and discipline improve the men both physically and morally. 06 03 15d

1906 04 02

Patrick Canty was born in County Kerry and fought at Sebastopol during the Crimean campaign when he went to the rescue of a French general and was awarded the Legion of Honour, one of the few Irishmen to have received that medal. He emigrated to the USA before coming to Cambridge as licensee of the Crown and Harp pub in John Street. 06 04 02

1906 05 09

A most regrettable accident occurred at Ely Conservative Club garden party to inaugurate the new Morris Tube range and bowling green. Part of the proceedings consisted of a shooting competition for ladies on the indoor miniature range. A number had shot when a rifle held by Mrs J.S. Barnett accidentally exploded and the bullet struck her husband in the neck while he was writing his wife's name on the target. Fortunately the wound was not serious but it spread horror and dismay over the gathering 06 05 09b

1906 07 31

A rifle range was opened at Abington by Mr Binney. After firing a few shots he said we imagine that our insular position made England unassailable. We have not suffered the disaster of blockade and do not realise what a dangerous position this island is in. In other countries shooting took the place of our cricket and football. Every man ought to be able to handle a rifle and this was a move in the right direction. 06 07 31b

1906 08 11

The British Army of the future will possess a body of men unique in the history of warfare. 'The Legion of Frontiersmen' are men prepared to take their part in operations in time of war, guiding and scouting rather than fighting; not so much soldiers as guerrillas. They include J.H. Thornton of Teversham and W. McArthur of Quy who took part in the suppression of the American Indian rebellion. The uniform includes khaki pants, dark blue shirt and a Stetson hat with a loosely-slung cartridge belt and revolver. 06 08 11a & b

1906 10 06

Joseph Moule was a veteran of the Crimea but rarely talked of his hardships in the trenches outside Sebastopol or of the stirring relief of Lucknow. Then as one of the gallant 90th Foot he was one of the hardened campaigners who went direct from the perils of the Crimea to the horrors of the Indian Mutiny. He expired suddenly at his home in Mill Road aged 72, thus the ranks of veterans get thinner and thinner 06 10 06

1907 09 09

General Sir John French and 80 army officers arrived in Cambridge by special train with 27 cars containing Army Motor Reserve officers joining them at Trinity College from all parts of the country. They are part of the 'Blue' army, a Continental power capable of mobilising three million troops, which has landed on the East coast after 'Redland' – the UK – lost command of the sea. The exercise is designed to give the higher commanders an opportunity of considering the strategical problems and working out tactics. 07 09 09

1907 09 14

Cambridge is taking very placidly the invasion of East Anglia by a foreign foe under the command of that redoubtable warrior, Sir John French. The brilliant cavalry leader is comfortably ensconced in rooms at Trinity College and in the quietude of the Great Court can carry out his plans for the annihilation of the British troops. 07 09 14 [1.12]

1907 11 02

The old Volunteer force has ceased to exist after a splendid record of 50 years' service. Now territorial battalions will be under county organisations and in touch with the county line battalions on the one hand and the civilian population on the other. In Cambridgeshire the Lord Lieutenant, Viscount Clifden, has already invited a number of county gentlemen, military and civilian, to confer with him. Unless it has the hearty support of all classes there would be no alternative to compulsory military service. 07 11 02 & a, c, d

1907 11 08

A miniature rifle range just opened at the Beaconsfield Club is equipped with the best Winchester rifles. It is the first duty of every citizen to learn to use a rifle and the club should have a useful existence. In the warfare of the future everybody should be able to handle a rifle, move about with the lightest possible equipment and be able to seek cover when there is no advantage to be gained by being marked in the open. 07 11 08 & a

1907 12 04

"The Fighting Fullers" were three brothers who served in the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War. John Fuller who lives at Newton fought at the Alma, Balaclava and Sebastopol. His brother James was invalidated out of the army with a pension of 8d a day – which a grateful country halved. But Lord Wolseley sent him £5 and got the pension raised to 9d. Nathan Fuller was wounded by a piece of shell but in those days the British soldier had to endure suffering bravely and he could not be spared from the fighting to go to hospital. Later he lost all his toe nails from frost bite. 07 12 04 & a

1908 01 10

Everybody in Cambridgeshire is concerned in the attempt to induce the War Office to retain the 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, better known as the Cambs Militia. It now only trains once a year and inculcates habits of discipline to the men who join. During the Napoleonic wars it had an exciting time and went to Ireland in 1799. In 1816 they assisted the Royal Dragoons to overpower the Littleport rioters but by 1852 there was only an old sergeant major and some antiquated sergeants at Ely. 08 01 10 h i - more history

1908 02 15

Colonel Barnet William Beales of Sidney Street, was a splendid type of local patriot. He was a pioneer in the Cambridge Volunteers, treasurer of the Church Defence Association and churchwarden of St Michael's. To mention all the associations of his long and honourable career would involve re-telling many pages of Cambridge history but he found time for the duties of an Income Tax Commissioner and the Panton Brewery. Nine years ago he was knocked down by a retriever dog and never completely recovered. 08 02 15f

1908 03 19

Military manoeuvres attracted considerable attention. One force, including Perse School cadets, was ordered to hold the line of the Cam from Trumpington to the Mill Inn, Hauxton. Timber and cordage was seized from some scaffolding and the engineering section constructed a bridge sufficient to have carried Cavalry. The whole of the Cambridge University mounted infantry was captured, which would have had disastrous results in a real war. 08 03 19a

1908 03 28

Volunteer colours to GSM, history – 08 03 28c 08 03 31 & a & b - RC

1908 04 01

More than 1000 people gathered on Cambridge Market Hill at midnight to witness the official extinction of the Third (Cambs) Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. As the clock chimed the buglers played 'The Last Post' and the Volunteers were no more. But after a few seconds 'Reveille' was sounded, melancholy vanished and cheers greeted the new Cambridgeshire Battalion of the Territorial Force. The bugle band played the officers back to the mess room where they sang 'Auld Lang Syne' 08 04 01 a & b

1908 05 16

An appeal to the patriotism of members of the University is never made in vain. Scenes of the greatest enthusiasm reigned in the Senate House when the Secretary of State for War appealed to the University to do its part in supplying the deficiency of about 8,000 officers in the Army. The science of war had progressed and they fought not with a rabble but with organised bodies of men on a great scale who went through the opposing forces without resistance. An Officer's Training Corps gave a man a second opportunity: if he went to the bar and did not like it, then he could become an Army officer. 08 05 16 & a

1908 06 27

Cavalry on exercise "repelling German invasion" – 08 06 27 [1.13]

1908 07 03

The Lensfield club's new miniature rifle range off Newmarket Road was opened by Colonel Harding. Membership had risen from six to 100 in a year, it was a step towards handling the service rifle and ammunition and taking an interest in the Territorial Army. Now they wanted a new pavilion. CWN 08 07 03 p5

1908 09 11

A miniature rifle range and air rifle club has been formed in connection with the Church of England Young Men's Society at their large room in St Edward's Passage. The two targets can be placed in two positions – for shooting standing up or lying down – and two good air rifles have been provided. Englishmen should learn to shoot in order to defend their own hearths and homes and the Corporation should establish a range open almost all hours of the day. CWN 08 09 11 p8

1908 09 25

If the safety of England can be gauged by her miniature rifle clubs, then England must be safe indeed. Everywhere these little societies of keen shots have been springing up like mushrooms and nowhere has been more prolific than Cambridge. The latest club meets at the Bell Inn, Newmarket Road and already has a membership of 50. They would learn not only to hit the bull's eye at practice, but in times of dire necessity to shoot straight at other targets and so keep their land intact in case of invasion. CWN 09 09 25 p3

1908 11 13

For several hours the district between Lord's Bridge and Haslingfield was the scene of warfare which, had it been real, would have strewn the countryside with dead and dying. The C.U. Officers' Training Corps was joined by the Leys, Perse, Cambridge County and other schools as several hundreds of

troops, cavalry, infantry and engineers were engaged. The idea was that a hostile army was retiring towards Royston and being harried by the home army. Their retreat was attended with difficulty since all the bridges over the Cam were destroyed and fords existed for mounted troops only - 08 11 13

1909 01 22

The new Abbey miniature rifle range opened in the grounds of the coffee tavern at 158, Newmarket Road. The eight targets, which can be set and returned for inspection by a winding mechanism, are illuminated by incandescent gas burners and the building is absolutely fireproof. It is hoped to build a pavilion and to have an open-air range in the summer. The district can now boast of two clubs, the other being at the 'Bell'. 09 01 22

1909 01 22

The Saxon Cement Works' Miniature Rifle Range was opened by Major Bourke, of Rorke's Drift fame. It has a range of up to fifty yards where rifle shooting may be practiced in fair weather and foul, in daytime or at night, electricity affording the requisite illumination. In rain the bull's eyes are accessible to the bullet fired from the verandah of a comfortable club house. Every member possesses his own rifle. 09 01 22

1909 02 05

In military exercises around Grantchester the University Officer Training Corps attacked Dumpling Hall, near Haggis Gap Farm. Engineers rapidly and noiselessly constructed a bridge of boats across the river and the force advanced over the fields. The night promised to be foggy but turned out bright and starlight with a strong moon so the troops were unusually conspicuous. By the time they arrived the enemy general who had been based there had managed to escape 09 02 05

1909 02 19

The gallant band of old soldiers who fought in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny gets smaller every year. Cambridge man James Gray died in the workhouse, where the poor are so well looked after and was buried at Mill Road cemetery. There was no time to arrange for a military funeral but Captain Heal sent a large Union Jack to be placed on the coffin. Four members of the Territorial Force volunteered to act as pall bearers but assembled at Newmarket Road cemetery. On realising their mistake they drove to Mill Road which they reached just after the sorrowful ceremony had concluded and the mourners had left 09 02 19

1909 02 19

Airships were the real menace, Burwell Rifle Club was told. Foreign nations had an immense number of them capable of living up in the air for 48 hours away from their base. They could carry half a ton of dynamite. They could not dodge over floating ironclads and attack them but they could drop dynamite into our naval dockyards and a navy without a base was not a navy at all. The authorities in the United States were very worried about them 09 02 19

1909 03 05

During military night operations around Cambridge residents were discomfited by the activity of an eight-inch howitzer entrenched in a capitally-constructed earth fort on the high ground of Madingley Hill. It was attacked by the Cambridge University officer Training Corps who found the rush uphill on the double was too long and exhausting. There was the danger of troops arriving out of breath and in scattered formation being charged with the bayonet. So they marched across country, crossing fences and ditches in silence. After the roar of an explosion, symbolising the destruction of the howitzer they retired to Coton 09 03 05

1909 06 11

It is a surprise that Cambridge has long been immune from the raids of the 'scareship'. There are splendid places such as the roof of King's College chapel where a Zeppelin might find a lovely anchorage. Now a flag flaunting an eagle rampant has been picked up in the dead of night. This gaudy tinselled thing lies stowed away in the police station bearing the inscription 'This flag, believed to

have been dropped from an airship, was found on Midsummer Common'. Nervous readers should be assured that it is a flimsy trifle, two inches square, and it is thought improbable that the owners will return in search of their missing property 09 06 11 [1.14]

1909 11 19

The latest addition to the numerous miniature rifle clubs has been formed in connection with the Loyal Suffolk Hussars at Ye Olde Castel Hotel, St Andrew's Street. - CWN 09 11 19

1910 01 28

A meeting was held to encourage British breeders to supply the British Army with British horses. They were woefully short of them: the number required in case of mobilisation was 129,000. The bus horse had been the most valuable immediate supply but these were now almost entirely extinct so the army hired horses during the 14 days annual training. An Imperial Horse Society should be established, the Master of the Cambridgeshire Hounds told farmers. 10 01 28 & a

1910 02 25

The high ground near Cherry Hinton was the scene of some interesting military operations. For several hours the Gogs resounded with the crackle of rifle fire and the thunder of artillery as the tide of battle rolled slowly from Reservoir Hill past the Golf Links until arrested at Limepit Hill. The operations supposed that the Great Eastern Railway line was the frontier between two states which had mobilised their troops. A cavalry brigade at Newmarket was reinforced by some infantry and guns and Fulbourn was fortified. 10 02 25m & n

1910 03 04

OTC successful night attack -10 03 04j & k

1910 07 15

Henry James, a watercress seller from River Lane, was accused of searching for spent bullets in the soil at the Rifle Butts without having permission of the Commanding Officer of the Cambridgeshire Regiment. He'd got some girls to help to pick up about 6lbs of bullets that he'd sold to Mr Charles Carless, a marine store dealer of Broad Street. Two boys were also cautioned for picking up bullets. The Territorial Army said a good deal of damage had been done to the Rifle Butts by people picking up the bullets and they wanted to stop people buying them 10 07 15b

1910 11 11

A convoy, broken-down and captured by the enemy near Cantelupe Farm Haslingfield formed the objective of some interesting operations by the University Officer Training Corps and a small force of public school boys from the Leys School. The Cambridge garrison were very short of fuses and a convoy of wagons, disguised as manure carts had tried to reach them. But the horses became exhausted and they'd been obliged to halt for the night. The commander sent out column 500 strong to bring them in but encountered the opposing cavalry. The Maxim gun detachment did good service, firing from near the inn at Barton 10 11 11c & d

1910 11 18

The rising ground near Histon Station was the scene of operations by the C.U.O.T.C. It included an advance across country by the infantry battalion on a position near the windmill where a very strong gun emplacement had been constructed complete with communications trenches. The attackers crept cautiously to within 50 yards of the position without a sound being heard, then swarmed over the breastworks. A dummy gun was blown up with a thunderous boom which rolled away over the countryside. 10 11 18 & a.

1911 01 27

French inspects members of Cambridge University Officer Training Corps, field day, Gogs – 11 01 27a

1911 01 28

Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments formed to complete medical establishment required for Territorial Force in event of invasion – 11 01 28 [1.17]

1911 02 24

The ideas governing military manoeuvres are generally very practical and prosaic, if a trifle far-fetched. But those of the University Officers Training Corps are often diverting. General Stummakoffski had received a wound from the lance of one of his troops which prevented him sitting in the saddle and was forced to continue his flight in a litter, trying to reach Comberton. Firing was carried out at murderously short range and had ball cartridges been used they would have put enough bullets into the litter to have considerably alarmed 'The General' to say the least! 11 02 24c

1911 05 12

The camp of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars Regiment of Yeomanry has been pitched in Grantchester Meadows and already the greater part of the canvas village has been erected and presents a very picturesque appearance. There is a large marquee where men will take their meals and portable wooden buildings for the officers' mess. But it is a long walk into Cambridge and local motor-bus and taxi-cab proprietors and waggonette and cab proprietors might find it worth their while to run a service. There will be something like 500 men in camp and many who will gladly pay to be taken in to town for the evening. 11 05 12

1911 08 04

A public meeting was called to deal with objections over land that might be used during the forthcoming military manoeuvres. But no farmer or landowner attended. This was not due to apathy but to the methods adopted by the authorities for making the meeting known. No notice was inserted in Cambridge newspapers so the majority of the population remained ignorant. There would be danger of abortions in breeding ewes and any stock should be removed. Civil compensation offices will adjudicate in any dispute. Engineers will report on all roads before and after the manoeuvres and meet local authorities with regard to any damage caused. 11 08 04g

1911 08 25

The proposed army manoeuvres have been abandoned due to the drought. This is a disappointment to local tradesmen. The tender of G.P. Hawkins had been accepted for the supply of bread to troops expected at Cambridge, Gt Wilbraham, Babraham, Fulbourn and elsewhere. Bicycles hired for the use of the advance party engaged in constructing telegraphs were returned to Robinson's bicycle showroom. The Royal Engineers encamped near Whittlesford station will take down the telegraph posts and wires already erected. Landlords of village inns have cause to regret the abandonment for the advance party of troops had evidenced a liking for a variation of camp fare. 11 08 25b

1911 09 01

Large crowds have witnessed successful flights during the week by the Army airmen encamped at Hardwick. Lieut. Cammell, flying his own Bleriot monoplane, was expected to arrive from Hendon shortly after dark on Friday night and petrol flares were lit on the camp ground which acted at once as beacons and as a guide to the most convenient place to land. But at Baldock he ran into a storm and was compelled to alight. He arrived early next morning. He later made another flight when the sight of the aerial monster combined with the noise it created terrified some farm horses. 11 09 01 (see also c. 26.1 for other accounts of flying in connection with the manoeuvres)

1911 11 24

The Intelligence Department of the War Office have been busy making a minute return of everything likely to be of use in case of war. The number of horses available, places suitable for camps, locality of wells, blacksmiths' shops and farms have all been noted. Cambridge would be a great medical base and a Red Cross hospital would receive medical and surgical cases from all the county hospitals in East Anglia. The headquarters of the surgical division would be at King's College and the medical wards in the Senate House. The nurses would be quartered in Downing College. 11 11 24c

1912 01 19

Everyone should be able to live in safety in their own homes without fear of being murdered or having their property stolen, Prof Ridgeway told a packed meeting at Fen Ditton. The object of the National Service League was to make sure of the defensive powers of this country, so that if any force should land the forces of this nation should be able to repel them and destroy them, and keep the homes of the people in safety. The audience expressed their approval. 12 01 19e

1912 03 08

Members of the University Officers' Training Corp together with the Leys, Perse and County School O.T.C. took part in night operations with the Honorary Artillery Company from London. A brisk engagement in the vicinity of Arbury Camp culminated in the capture and blowing-up of a gun posted at the windmill near Histon station. The night was not favourable for a surprise attack, the moon was shining brightly and the defenders opened fire. Soon a brisk musketry duel was in progress. 12 03 08b

1912 04 12

A parade of past and present members of the Forces presented a very pretty spectacle. First came the Yeomanry in dark green uniforms with red and yellow facings, then came a blaze of scarlets – the 1st Cambridgeshires - followed by the Medicals in dark grey with maroon facings. Bringing up the rear the National Reserve with several veterans, including a Lancer, proudly wearing their uniforms, a fine body of men fit and ready to shoulder rifle again in defence of hearth and home if need be. Overnight they were accommodated in the Corn Exchange, where they were provided with straw palliasses and blankets. 12 04 12c

1912 04 19

Newmarket was only 53 miles from the sea. If a hostile force landed on the Suffolk coast a stand might be made at Needham Market and a battle might take place at Bury St Edmunds resulting in 1,100 casualties. Where would they be taken, fed and nursed? Voluntary Aid Detachments trained men and women to give aid to the sick and wounded in the event of this country being invaded. Otherwise they would be neglected and left to look after themselves, Newmarket section of the British Red Cross Society was told 12 04 19 & a

1912 07 26

"Expect 40 wounded men 3 o'clock" read the telegram received by Croxton detachment of the British Red Cross Society. It appeared the army had been engaged with a force of the enemy near St Neots and as a result 40 men were wounded. By the time they arrived at Croxton Park the hospital camp had been pitched and everything was in readiness – stores, a kitchen and operating tent. The sufferers – members of the Croxton and Eltisley Boy Scouts - were treated by 80 men and women who had turned up. There was only one real casualty during the exercise – a child was bitten by a dog. 12 07 26b & c

1912 07 26

The Army Manoeuvres centred on Cambridge are the most important in the country for a considerable time. They will be a searching test of the scheme for the defence of London from an invading army landing on the East Coast. Some 80,000 troops will be engaged so people will see more soldiers and gain a better idea of modern warfare than ever before in their lives. All arms of the service will be involved with a large body of Territorials moving on bicycles to oppose the invaders, demonstrating their mobility and capacity for swift action. These wheelmen would bear the brunt of the earliest fighting and are capable of covering long distances. 12 07 26g & h

1912 08 30

Army manoeuvres; hostilities next week – 12 08 30i & j

1912 09 06

Manoeuvres begin – Stourbridge common, Linton – 12 09 06h & I; Fighting – detailed report – 12 09 13

1912 09 13

‘Manoeuvrereitis’ – reflections – 12 09 13g

1912 09 13

Manoeuvres – Dash on Grantchester, aircraft crashes, Trumpington street fighting, Newmarket operations – 12 09 13i & j & l training near Fen Ditton, Airship camp, John French visit, cavalry at Royston – 12 09 13h; photos arrival Liverpool Territorials at station, camp at Linton – 12 09 13m; air scouts, Col Cody biplane photo – 12 09 20

1912 09 20

His Majesty the King visited the Hardwick aero camp where he spoke to Colonel S.F. Cody, and inspected his famous biplane. He showed much interest in the position of the propeller, which is behind the pilot and not in front, as in the other biplanes at the camp. The King then commanded Col Cody to make a short exhibition flight. In a few seconds the plane was in the air, making several circuits, flying both high and low before pulling up gracefully within a few yards of the Royal party. The King then inspected the Naval biplanes before leaving. Shortly afterwards Mr de Havilland arrived in a biplane from the ‘seat of war’ – the manoeuvres around Linton 12 09 20e also 20d, photos 20f, g. Airmen’s triumph, Mutlow Hill taken etc – 20h; fighting Horseheath – 20i, Castle Camps – 20j, airship 20k 20l 20n Swaffham Bulbeck see plane, troops based on the Green, Histon – 12 09 20o Swavesey has been little affected by the grand manoeuvres; a plane passed over and on three armed cyclists scouts rode through. But a village man driving a load of crates of empty beer bottles along the Huntingdon Road was captured by a detachment of soldiers. When first challenged he was not inclined to stop, but speedily did so when he had to look down the barrels of rifles. After the cart was overhauled he was allowed to proceed 12 09 20n

1912 10 04

A review of the recent army manoeuvres recognises the value of cyclists as a screen. The Welsh cyclists biked the whole distance from Cardiff in two days. One of the first cyclist corps was started in Cambridge under Major Rhodes. Those of the Cambridgeshire Territorial Battalion are now drawn from Ely but are only a few in number. There are probably more cyclists in Cambridgeshire than any other county and could easily furnish a whole battalion of wheelman. The number of civilian cyclists noticed at the Manoeuvres was really remarkable and they seemed able to follow the troops anywhere and everywhere. 12 10 04e

1912 11 01

Sir – the Territorial cyclist has been used for the first time during the army manoeuvres. There is a battalion in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex who would be distributed along the coast to repel any enemy landings or fight a delaying action until troops largely dependent upon the railway can arrive. Should there not be a cyclist battalion in Cambs who could proceed to any threatened place as reinforcements? Despite their shortcomings on open ground, the cyclist is the ideal mobile fighting man for home defence and should take his proper place in our military system – A Cyclist Sergeant 12 11 01f

1912 11 08

The Great Eastern Railway Company accomplished great work during the army manoeuvres running 200 trains to move troops, horses and guns. An engine in steam with an accident van and steam crane was made ready, carpenters prepared to perform any services and the edges of all platforms were whitened with lime. No less than 45 type-written special train notices had to be prepared involving the reproduction of many thousand copies by means of hand rotary machines. Blue paper was used for the inward travel and yellow for the outward. All this without interfering with ordinary passenger traffic 12 11 08

1912 11 22

Battle of Grantchester over swampy meadows – CUOTC night operations cross river by boat bridge – 12 11 22b & c

1913 01 10

Sir – Indirect conscription is one way to increase the efficiency of our forces. We suggest that no undergraduate should take the BA until he has trained as a Territorial. As well as learning to use weapons it would keep them healthy, nimble and strong. This would amount to 2,000 men in three years from Cambridge alone. The same principle should apply to candidates for the Civil Service, Police Force, municipal and railway workers. Employees of private firms do not have the same permanence of employment and could not be made liable. Signed Arthur Gray, A.E. Shipley, W. Cunningham and other Cambridge Academics 13 01 10

1913 01 24

The moon and mud were the most momentous factors in the night military manoeuvres. The searchlight might have played an important part but could not be used at the last moment. But the bright moon meant it was possible to see men half-way across the field they had to cross before attacking the hills between Shelford station and Hills Road where wire entanglements had been prepared and two companies of infantry were waiting. Firing was fast and furious, the big guns and Maxim sounding above the splattering of rifles 13 01 24e

1913 02 21

Boer war veterans reunion – memories 13 02 21 p9 CIP

1913 02 28

The proposal of Cambridge dons that the BA Degree should be made conditional upon service in the Territorial Force has been met with a good deal of ridicule. Degrees and national development proposal met with ridicule 13 02 28 p8 CIP ; poem p6

1913 06 20

Military parade, open-air service Parker's Piece 13 06 20 p5 CIP

1913 08 01

Red Cross VAD detachments had a field day at Newton Hall Park. Shepreth send a complete detachment of both men and women. The village has a pensioned R.A.M.C., Mr A. Smith, who they made Quartermaster and threw himself heartily into the work. He improvised stretchers using ash poles but slings. These are necessary for it is quite impossible for bearers to carry wounded men long distances without them 13 08 01 p2 CIP

1913 10 31

College Servants formed a VAD so they could train to join the First Eastern Hospital. This was at a skeleton stage. Cambridge was an ideal place with all its colleges capable of holding a large number of people. It needed to be run on military lines 13 10 31 p10 CIP

1913 12 05

Following a battle on the Gog Magog Hills an enemy force have camped on Parker's Piece. They know the defeated English volunteers have hidden large supplies of ammunition near between Green End and Biggin Abbey and intend capturing it. But Cambridge Scouts will stop them. Assembling at Barnwell Railway footbridge with marksmen, matches, cycles and signal flags they will find the explosives first and blow it up rather than allow them to get it while Sea Scouts attack the enemy from the river. It should be an interesting field day. 13 12 05 p5 CIP